WHAT THEY SAID

The Gazette Telegraph hot line asked readers:

"Should gays and lesbians be allowed to serve in the military?"

"Homosexuals should not be allowed in the military. It would interfere with trust, which is the most necessary part of any kind of military establishment. If you introduce homosexuality into that equation, you break the trust."

— Mario Garcia, Manitou Springs

"Yes, they ought to lift the ban; we've had gays in the military forever. There's no problem as long as they follow the same rules for behavior that are applied to heterosexuals. No open displays of affection, no comingling in the barracks. There's not a real problem with it."

— Mike Welsh, Colorado Springs

"There's absolutely no question that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military. They, unfortunately, have had to serve in the closet for many years, and they've all served with loyalty, pride and heroism. I would most certainly rather serve with a gay or lesbian than with some of the bigots in the service."

— Mitzi Kempt, Colorado Springs

"I don't think gays and lesbians should be allowed in the military. You can separate men and women, but you can't separate homosexuals. There is a certain level of privacy that you need that would be invaded on if you let homosexuals in the military."

— Debbie Musgrave, Fountain

"After 20 years in the Air Force I would not serve with a gay, whether it is a man or a woman. . . . Gay lifestyle is not conducive to the open life of a military person. Gays in the military now are hiding. But if the ban is lifted they would be overt. This action would be completely reprehensible and against the whole idea of the military, especially under combat conditions."

— Paul Scruggs, Colorado Springs

"I served in the Army for four years and worked with people I knew to be gay or lesbian. They never harassed me or discriminated against me like heterosexual males did."

— Liz Richardson, Colorado Springs

"I am against gays being in the military. The military is not a place for social experiment. It is an organization set up to protect our nation."

— Bob West, Colorado Springs

"I am a retired veteran with 24 years in the Air Force and no one has convinced me or even mentioned what the gays and lesbians will contribute to the armed services. Furthermore, all I can see for the financial part of it would be a continued strain on the medical services."

— Al Hughes, Colorado Springs

"I believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military. The arguments being used against it sound like the same arguments the military used back in the '40s to keep the blacks segregated from the military."

— Jay Norman, Colorado Springs

"I do not believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military. We all are aware of the fact that Mr. Clinton does not have any military experience, and his failure to adhere to the advice of top military leaders such as the Joint Chiefs of Staff certainly makes me wonder what he would do in a military conflict. Would he then ignore these experts?"

— Ed Kovitz, Peyton

"My biggest question is, will people already serving in the military who believe that gays and lesbians should not be allowed in, would they be allowed out of their contracts?"

— George Labishak, Widefield

"Twenty-three states have laws against sodomy. I don't think we should welcome these lawbreakers into the military. Also, homosexuals started the AIDS problem and we don't need this burden on the already overburdened military medical facility."

— Lester Curtiss, Colorado Springs

"I have no objection to homosexuals serving in the military as long as they keep it to themselves. I served in World War II and know that homosexuals would create a morale problem because their lifestyle is flaunted. Quotas of these people would make them be next in promotions, etc. A lot of people think there is nothing gay about homosexuals. But there is one good thing about them, they don't reproduce themselves, thank goodness.

— Glenn Anderson, Canon City

"We do not need to open the military to gays and lesbians. It's too expensive for one thing. They will want military medical insurance for their spouses, most of whom will have AIDS, separate housing and special rights. All people in the United States have equal rights, but we don't need special rights."

— Ethel Morphis, Colorado Springs

"I think President Clinton is going against the will of the people, he has not been in office that long, and I think we should start proceedings to impeach him. If he can't go by the will of the people, let the will of the people get him out."

— Gary Gilmore, Colorado Springs

"Yes, I think that the homosexuals and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military as long as they can accept and not expect any different treatment because of the sexual orientation. . . . I think people join the military to defend democracy."

— Sylvia Pooley, Colorado Springs

"I do not believe that gays should be allowed to openly serve in the military primarily because during times of emergency the military relies upon an untainted blood supply for troops who need transfusions. If you have a large number of undeclared homosexuals in the military — unfortunately the HIV virus does not show up until sometimes years afterward — you could decimate the military rather rapidly by having a tainted blood supply."

— Steve Clarke, Colorado Springs

GT 2/29 Knight-Ridder Tribune

Changing opinion on gays

National polls show Americans are divided over gay and lesbian issue.

■ Should homosexuality be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle?

	Yes	No
1982	34%	51%
1992	38%	57%

■ Should homosexual relationships between consenting adults be legal?

	Yes	No
1982	45%	39%
1992	48%	44%

■ Should homosexuals have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?

	Yes	No
1982	59%	28%
1992	74%	18%

■ Homosexuals should be hired for these occupations.

	'82	'92
Salesperson	70%	82%
Doctors	50%	53%
High school teachers	Not available	47%
Clergy	38%	43%
Elementary teachers	32%	41%

A survey of 1,002 adults with a margin of error of 3%.
Source: Gallup Polls

COLORADO DELEGATION REACTION

"I think what he (Clinton) did was the proper thing to do. He instructed the Joint Chiefs of Staff to come up with a process to get rid of discrimination while preserving the integrity of the military. I think some of the things the military has been doing probably could have been stopped a long time ago."

"I think people opposed to gays in the military have very short memories. It wasn't that many decades ago that people were saying the same things about blacks and Japanese-Americans."

— Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell

"I think it's premature at best. I think it's going to cause a great deal of disorder."

— Rep. Scott McInnis

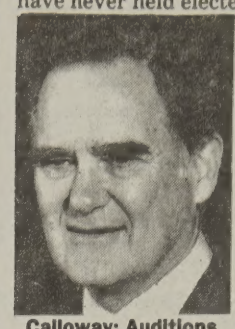
"The president is unfamiliar with the military. His position on this issue is not well thought out. I am concerned about the right of privacy for military personnel, who must live together as well as work together."

— Sen. Hank Brown
(In a statement)

war support for Iraq

and **Richard English**, 17, a bone-cancer patient from Toledo, Ohio.

■ The new Republican Party chairman, to be elected today in St. Louis, probably will be one of two party insiders who have never held elected office. The five candidates for the job were grilled Thursday behind closed doors by the 165 members of the Republican National Committee in what amounted to a high-stakes audition. The leading candidates are **Spencer Abraham** and **Haley Barbour**; others are former Missouri Gov. **John Ashcroft**, longtime RNC member **Howard "Bo" Calloway** of Colorado, a former Georgia congressman and Colorado GOP state chairman, and Oregon GOP chairman **Craig Berkman**. Calloway, 65, has visited more RNC voters and drawn more on his experience in GOP politics than the others, but may suffer from the belief that with two baby boomers running the White House, the GOP needs a younger face.



Calloway: Auditions for GOP position.

■ **President Clinton** and his Cabinet are going to Camp David. Most will arrive at the presidential retreat Saturday, spend the night and return to Washington in time for the Super Bowl. Clinton may fly to Camp David today.

QUOTABLE

"I think the honeymoon is over. I think a week is long enough."

Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Lott, speaking to a group of Republican businessmen, reflected on rising criticism of Bill Clinton from congressional Republicans as his new Democratic administration struggled to get off the ground.

Gazette Telegraph news services

Pepe, Victor Cordero's law-
u.
ee people he admires to the
kly ritual to recognize individ-
red were: **Kevin Roche**, winner
ican Institute of Architects;
1993 National Association of
e Principal of the Year Award;

In the AP interview, he com-
ained about accusations made
gainst him anonymously in the
edia.

"Is it fair that somebody com-
ains about my conduct, but 'I
on't want to be questioned and
don't want anybody to put me
nder oath and I don't want to
ppear' and there should be no
ght to present any other infor-
ation?" Packwood said.

"That isn't the American sys-
em," he said.

Asked whether his accusers
ight be less likely to cooperate
with the investigation if they
new their private lives might
e scrutinized, Packwood said:
'All I'm saying is that if

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